

First Office Action Response for COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEM (Reissue) Serial # 09/892,185 GAU 3661
Examiner Eric M. Gibson Applicant: Brett O. Hall 4208 Lazy Creek Dr. Marietta, GA 30066 770 517-5991

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/892,185
Application Filed: June 26, 2001
Applicant: Brett O. Hall
Application Title: COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEM (Reissue Application)
Examiner / GAU: Eric M. Gibson / 3661

Official

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RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

MAR 21 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed January 22, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows and consider the appended remarks:

In the Claims:

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C

Claim 1 (Amended). A collision avoidance system, comprising:

- a) at least one [a plurality of] trigger sensor[s each] associated with a roadway, each said trigger sensor capable of sensing at least one parameter associated with one or more vehicles;
- b) at least one [a plurality of] vehicle restrictor[s each] associated with said roadway, each said restrictor comprising an elongate member disposed generally transverse to said roadway, each said restrictor capable of being actuated to raise or lower relative to said roadway surface to impede passage thereover of said vehicles; and
- c) a controller programmed to determine the likelihood of a collision between any of said vehicles based on said vehicle parameters received from said trigger sensors, programmed to determine which of a selected one or more of said vehicles should be slowed or stopped to avoid said collision based on said vehicle parameters and based on local traffic laws, and programmed to

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~~determine at least one selected vehicle restrictor that is being approached by said selected vehicle, where in said at least one selected vehicle restrictor is actuated by communication from said controller to impede the passage of said selected vehicle to avoid said collision.~~

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C* Claim 11 (Amended). The collision avoidance system of claim 1, further comprising:

- a) at least one [a plurality of] pedestrian trigger sensor[s each] associated with said roadway, each said pedestrian trigger sensor capable of sensing at least one parameter of one or more pedestrians;
- b) at least one alarm associated with said roadway to alert operators of said vehicles of an approaching pedestrian to avoid collision; and
- c) said controller programmed to determine the likelihood of a collision between said pedestrian and any of said vehicles, and to select and activate said alarm and to select and activate said selected vehicle restrictor immediately in the path of said selected vehicle.

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B3* Claim 14 (Amended). The collision avoidance system of claim 1, further comprising:

- a) at least one [a plurality of] train trigger sensor[s each] associated with said roadway, each said train trigger sensor capable of sensing at least one parameter of one or more trains;
- b) at least one [a plurality of] alarm[s] associated with said roadway to alert operators of said vehicles of an approaching train to avoid collision; and
- c) said controller programmed to determine the likelihood of a collision between said train and any of said vehicles, and to select and activate said alarm and to

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A3
select and activate said selected vehicle restrictor immediately in the path of
said selected vehicle.

Sub B3P
Claim 16 (Amended). A method for collision avoidance, comprising:

- a) sensing parameters of at least one [a plurality of] vehicle[s];
- b) determining the likelihood of a collision involving any of said vehicles based on said vehicle parameters;
- c) determining which of a selected one or more of said vehicles should be slowed or stopped to avoid said collision based on said vehicle parameters and local traffic laws;
- d) determining at least one selected vehicle restrictor[, of a plurality of vehicle restrictors] in a roadway, that is being approached by said selected vehicle based on said vehicle parameters and said vehicle restrictor locations; and
- e) actuating said selected vehicle restrictor to control the parameters of said selected vehicle to avoid said collision.

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Claim 23

23. A collision avoidance system, comprising:

- a) a traffic [command signal] control means associated with a roadway and [Initiated by a traffic control device] used to coordinate the movement of vehicles, or pedestrians or trains, whereby the status of said traffic control means represents the traffic laws and safety intent of the traffic environment;
- b) at least one [a plurality of] vehicle restrictor[s each] associated with said roadway, each said restrictor comprising an elongate member disposed generally transverse to said roadway, each said restrictor capable of being actuated to raise or lower relative to said roadway surface to impede passage thereover of vehicles; and